INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ TR)

SITE NAME: Reiger, Fred, Houses SITE NUMBER: 68

LOCATION: 214 and 216-218 E~~ast~~ Jefferson St~~reet,~~ Boise, Ada County ~~(001), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

House A: Margaret Ann McMillan
c/o Women's Clinic Partnership
148 East Jefferson
Boise, ID 83702

House B: Franklin Charles Spinharney
and Richard O. Vycital
201 East Bannock
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Fred Reiger Houses and the property on which they stand, west 15 feet of lot 30, lots 31-32, block 11, John Kralls addition. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,65,370/48,29,00

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Fred Rieger Houses were designed together, built in the same year for the same client, and are seated very close together on contiguous lots on the eastern, inner corner of the acute-angled intersection of East Jefferson and Reserve streets. The triangular shape of the wstern extremity of the site accounts for teh odd notched plan of House A. Referred to in the contemporary press as "two distinct types" of the "rusticated type of California bungalow,"[1] the houses do in fact present the two main variants on the standard single-story bungalow. Both are low and horizontal, with low-pitched gables. The westerly house, House A, has a lateral ridgebeam and side-facing gables (complicated by the notching of the plan to fit the lot), while House B on the east has a front-facing gable supported on prominent figure-four brackets.

House A, 214 East Jefferson Street.

The house built for Fred Rieger's own occupancy has a peculiar plan mandated by its triangular corner lot. The apparent long dimension, the ridgebeam and a long shed dormer, are set laterally to Jefferson Street, and a porch is inset across the width of the facade. Behind the porch is a tier of rooms--originally living, dining, bedroom--extending the full width of the front elevation; behind these a large

space is notched out on the left rear corner of what would otherwise be a rectangular plan. A short second tier at right rear included kitchen and kitchen porch, a second bedroom, and a bath. This results in a splitting of the west-end gable which gives that elevation a salt box look from some angles.

Pairs of hefty squared piers support the roof in its forward extension over the porch. Curiously, there are two separate but parallel flights of steps leading up to the porch, each with concrete parapets. These show on the original drawings. The porch rail has large square balusters. Window and the entry have multiple upper lights. The siding is shingle in the gables and narrow clapboards on the walls. These have been replaced with wide clapboards on the front left corner; the low brick wall between the two flights of steps also appear to be an addition; and the brackets supporting the broadly projecting side eaves of the shed dormer hav had to be propped. Otherwise, the bungalow appears as originally designed.

House B, 216-218 East Jefferson Street

House B, designed for Rieger as a rental property, has a front-facing gable on its narrow street elevation. The raked eaves are extended on figure-four brackets, the bargeboards are deeply notched, and the face of the gable is covered with square shingles and contains a pair of sash windows with a bracketed plant shelf. The cross-facade porch is inset. The battered wood piers are massive, and the clapboarded porch walls below them are flared. The frieze board between post and gable is decorated with a close row of doubled purlin-like blocks. Siding below the gables is of narrow clapboards; the window frames are flat with battered sides. The large front windows have multiple upper lights. Rafters are exposed under the lateal eaves on the sides of the house.

The house has been divided into two apartments, but the entrance is still through the single front door. A gabled roof dormer, which does not show in the surviving elevation drawings (floor plans were not found) or in the rendering published in the Statesman at the time, emerges from the east slope of the roof behind the original exterior chimney. The exterior fabric of the house is unaltered and intact.

1. (Boise) Idaho Statesman, October 23, 1910, p. 16, c. 1.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Reiger bungalows are architecturally significant as excellent examples of the full-fledged bungalow style, here seen for the first time in the Thematic Group at normal scale and with straightforward surface treatment. The two houses represent the two basic types of bungalow--one with a front-facing and one with a side-facing gable roof. All the standard bungalow features--exposed rafters, figure-four brackets, battered porch posts, and shed-roofed dormers--appear on one or the other of them. In short, after several years of disguising the style in various ways, Tourtellotte and Hummel have here designed unmistakable bungalows. The houses were so identified in the contemporary newspaper, and since a sketch of them was captioned "Unique Type of Homes,"[1] we can assume that the unadultereated style was still somewhat novel in Boise. It would not be for long; a report of the Welch house (site 81) in 1912 refers to Boise as "Bungalowtown."[2]

At the same time, these bungalows are unmistakabley luxurious--the Statesman called them "two of the finest appearing buildings of this style of architecture in Boise"[3]--and the idiosyncratic plans of House A would never have been found in a plan-book. The architects, while working fully in a style which wsas currently mass-designed, made it clear that their designs were custom.

Fred Reiger's residence and rental bungalows were built by contractor Lemon and Doolittle, who also built the Gakey house (site 66). The reported cost was $7,000 for the pair, exclusive of plumbing and heating. Rieger appears to have been a newcomer to Boise. He never appeared in the City Directory and may never have lived at 214 Jefferson. In the 1911 book the house was reported as occupied by his widow.

1. (Boise) Idaho Statesman, October 23, 1910, p. 16 (sketch).

2. (Boise) Idaho Statesman, September 10, 1912, p. 4, c. 6.

3. (Boise) Idaho Statesman, October 23, 1910, p. 16, c. 1.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, July 24, 1910, p. 10, c. 1; October 23, 1910, p. 16, c. 1-2 (sketch).

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1911.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 407C. Collection and drawing loan book references, 1910. F. C. Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.

214

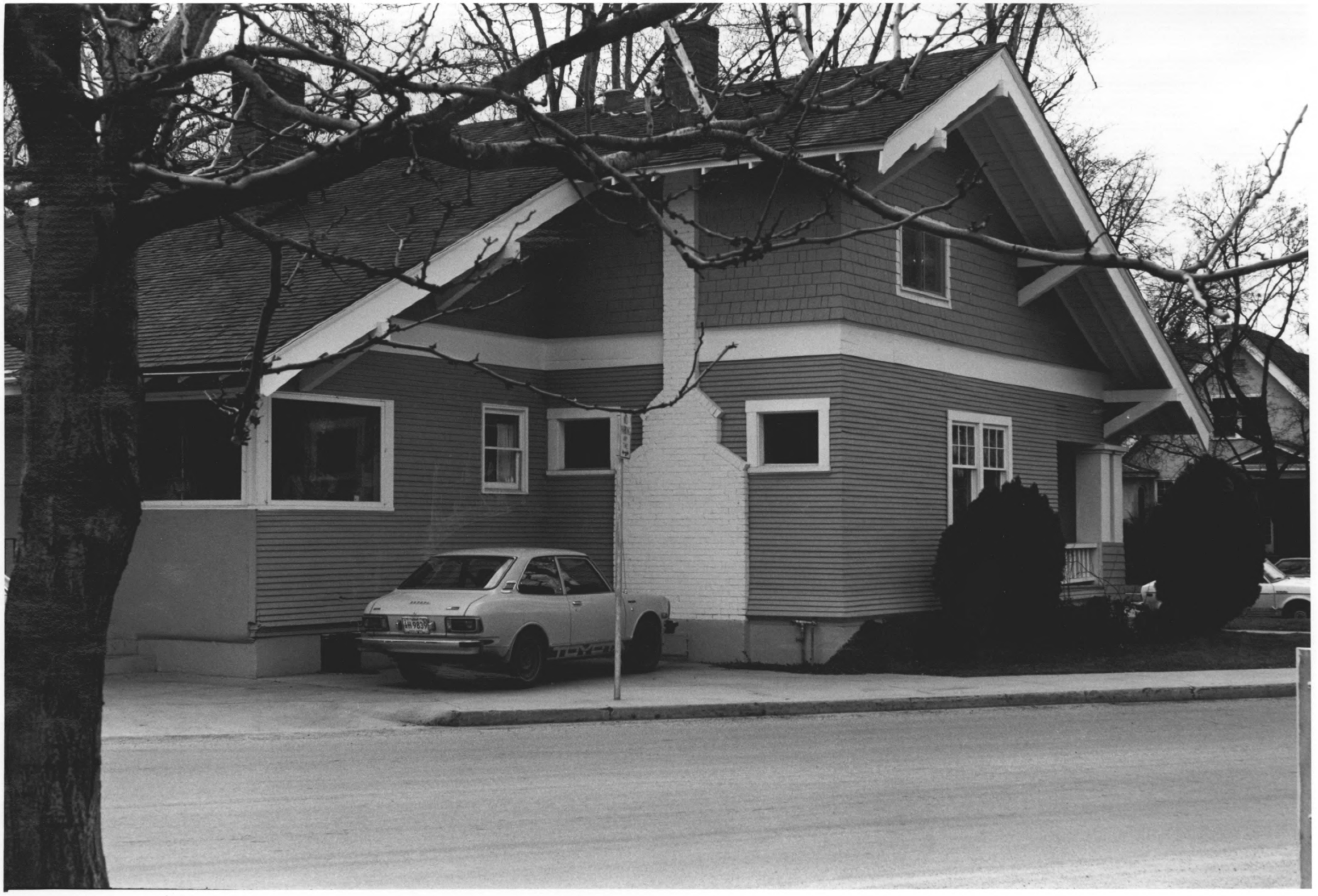
Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
Reiger, Fred Houses, site #68
[House A]
214 East Jefferson Street
Boise, Ada County, Idaho

Photographer:
Patricia Wright
1980

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from south

Photograph one of three



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Detail view from north

Photograph two of three

218

Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
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[House B]
218 East Jefferson Street
Boise, Ada County, Idaho

Photographer:
Patricia Wright
1980

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from south-southeast

Photograph three of three